

## National Institute of Standards and Technology

### SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

The conference agreement includes \$280,136,000 for the internal (core) research account of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, instead of \$280,470,000 as proposed in the House bill, and \$290,482,000 as proposed in the Senate bill.

The conference agreement provides funds for the core research programs of NIST as follows:

Electronics and Electrical Engineering.....	\$38,427,000
Manufacturing Engineering.....	19,368,000
Chemical Science and Technology.....	32,493,000
Physics.....	28,434,000
Material Sciences and Engineering.....	51,335,000
Building and Fire Research.....	14,898,000
Computer Science and Applied Mathematics.....	43,943,000
Technology Assistance.....	17,131,000
Baldrige Quality Awards.....	4,870,000
Research Support.....	29,237,000

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Total, STRS.....	280,136,000
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The conference agreement includes full funding for all base activities for the internal research programs of NIST, and includes selected program increases for the highest priority programs, as follows: (1) \$1,800,000 for semiconductor metrology; (2) \$1,200,000 to continue the disaster research

**“Taken from House Report 105-825  
FY 1999 Conference Report...”**

program on effects of windstorms on protective structures and other technologies begun in fiscal year 1998; (3) \$2,500,000 for increased support for international standards activities; and (4) \$1,800,000 to expand the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Awards program to health care and education. NIST is directed to follow the guidance included in the House report regarding the placement of NIST personnel overseas.

The conference agreement includes bill language allowing up to \$1,625,000 of amounts available under this account to be transferred to the NIST Working Capital Fund, as proposed in the Senate bill, instead of \$1,800,000 as recommended in the House bill.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

The conference agreement includes \$310,300,000 for the NIST external research account instead of \$287,000,000 as proposed in the House bill and \$299,142,000 as proposed in the Senate bill.

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program.--The conference agreement includes \$106,800,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program (MEP) as proposed in both the House and Senate bills, the full amount requested, to be distributed in accordance with the direction included in the House report. NIST is directed to comply with the direction included in the Senate report regarding an independent evaluation of the MEP program.

As recommended in the House bill, language is included waiving the statutory six-year limitation on Federal funding for each MEP Regional Center, subject to certain conditions, as requested in the budget. The Senate bill contained a similar waiver provision. Language is not included allowing up to

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\$300,000 of the funds provided to the MEP program to be transferred to the NIST Working Capital Fund, as proposed in the Senate bill.

Advanced Technology Program.--The conference agreement includes \$203,500,000 for the Advanced Technology Program (ATP), as recommended in the Senate bill, instead of \$180,200,000 as proposed in the House bill. The recommendation provides the following: (1) \$120,200,000 for continued funding requirements for awards made in fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998 to be derived from \$96,400,000 in fiscal year 1999 funding and \$23,800,000 from excess balances available from prior years; (2) \$66,000,000 for new awards in fiscal year 1999; and (3) \$41,100,000 for administration, internal NIST lab support and Small Business Innovation Research requirements. NIST is expected to comply with the direction included in the House report regarding reprogramming requirements and review of the current mortgage estimation formula, as well as the direction included in the Senate report regarding an outside assessment of this program. In addition, language is included in the bill designating the amounts available for new ATP awards, similar to language included in both the House and Senate bills.

### **CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES**

The conference agreement provides \$56,714,000 for construction, renovation and maintenance of NIST facilities, as proposed in the House bill, instead of \$56,684,000 included in the Senate bill. NIST is expected to follow the direction included in both the House and Senate reports regarding construction of the Advanced Metrology Laboratory. In addition, bill language is included making \$40,000,000 of the funds provided in this account available upon submission of a spending plan in accordance with Section 605 of this Act.